

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# Board of Game Commissioners

OF THE

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

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INCLUDING A REPORT

OF THE

## CHIEF GAME PROTECTOR

TO THE COMMISSION FOR THE  
YEAR 1917

HARRISBURG, PENNA.:  
J. L. L. KUHN, PRINTER TO THE COMMONWEALTH  
1918



## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GAME COMMISSIONERS

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Harrisburg, Pa., January 3, 1918.

To His Excellency, Martin G. Brumbaugh, Governor of Pennsylvania:

Sir: As required by Act of Assembly, we, the undersigned members of the Board of Game Commissioners of Pennsylvania, herewith make report to you of the work done under our supervision during the year 1917, and of conditions as we find them today, together with the reasons for these conditions.

We believe the new Game Laws of this State as signed by your Excellency on the seventh day of June, last, is the very best Game Law we have ever had in Pennsylvania, and is among the best, if not the very best, Law on the Statute Books of any State of this Union. While this Law may not be perfect in every respect, we consider that the State might well work under its provisions, without change, for years to come, excepting in matters in which the Game Commission now have authority to make alterations. We, therefore, have no recommendation relating to changes to make at this time.

### STATUS OF GAME.

#### QUAIL.

In the matter of game-birds, the information coming to us from our officers, from sportsmen, and from personal experience, leads us to believe that in parts of the State, especially the Southern Counties, our quail have very materially increased during the past summer, and were, when the recent snowy and cold weather began, quite numerous. What they may do during this winter, with our deep snows, remains to be seen.

#### WILD TURKEYS.

Wild turkeys have undoubtedly increased during the past year, notwithstanding the heavy rains in the Spring, and while, because of the later open season under the new Law, less birds were killed by sportsmen this year than were killed last year, we are satisfied that the weight of turkeys killed in 1917 exceeds the weight of the turkeys killed in 1916, because of the fact that the season opened four weeks later, and the birds were more mature and heavier. Reports coming to us indicate that we have more wild turkeys in this State at this time than we have had at the close of any season for years. In addition to this, we have contracted for and expect to release in this State about eight hundred (800) wild turkeys this winter. These birds are more or less wild, some of them of pure wild blood, some only partly so. They come from the mountains

of Virginia, West Virginia, and some from Maryland, and are inspected and selected considering their form, color, tail tips and other markings indicative of wild blood. Some of these birds will be released in territory from which wild turkeys have entirely disappeared, and many will be released in territory wherein some wild turkeys are yet found. Gobblers will be released in territory where wild hens are known to be, and hens where gobblers are seen, in the hope that the very best possible results may be secured.

### RUFFED GROUSE.

We are satisfied from data collected that these birds in some parts of our State, because of very unusual weather conditions during the past two or three hatching seasons, are on the verge of extinction, that while a fairly reasonable number may be found in some Counties or sections of Counties, because of peculiar conditions, taking the State as a whole the ruffed grouse to be perpetuated must be given additional protection immediately. We believe this should be done under the provisions of the Act of April 9th, 1915, P. L. 73, instead of waiting for the convening of our next Legislature. This Law in question gives the Game Commission authority to close various Counties of the Commonwealth under certain conditions. We understand thoroughly that if half the Counties of the State were closed for a period, and the remaining half left open, nothing but harm would result in the State at large, because the shooters from the closed Counties would flock to the open Counties and destroy the stock therein. We, therefore, suggest that sportsmen in every County of the State give this most important matter immediate consideration and file with the Game Commission the petition in time to have their County closed, so that other provisions of the Law may be complied with.

### DEER.

Deer appear to have increased in a wonderful way, and are now found in territory wherein no such animals have been seen for many years, and while a less number of male deer with antlers extending not less than two inches above the hair, were killed this year, than were killed last year, the reason for such decrease was not because deer were scarce, but instead, was because of the very unusual early deep snows that covered the ground during the last few days of the season, and the severe weather, that either drove many of the hunters from the woods or kept them in close proximity to their camp. We are sure the weather conditions saved the lives of many deer that might otherwise have been killed legally. We are also sure that the lives of numbers of deer were saved that would have been killed illegally when the ground was bare of snow, and the violators hard to track. Unusual weather conditions this year no doubt hampered the hunter and interfered with him in various ways, but was a material and decided benefit to the deer, and there will be more bucks to kill next year than there would have been had the unusual storms not come as they did.

## ELK.

The elk released in this State several years ago are beyond doubt increasing, but because of their disposition to wander far and to raid growing crops, are the cause of considerable complaint from certain directions. The Game Commission has the power to correct these conditions, and this will be done.

## BEAR.

The reports that bear were increasing in this Commonwealth have been fully confirmed during the past hunting season, and while not as many were killed as expected, a large number were killed, and many were saved because of the same conditions that interfered with deer hunting.

## RABBITS.

There were undoubtedly more rabbits killed in Pennsylvania last year than have ever been killed in this State before, and there are more of these animals left than ever before. This is the direct result of various provisions of our new Law, among other things those features limiting the running at large of dogs, the killing of vermin, the Law forbidding the use of ferrets in hunting rabbits, through the use of which the females were taken from their places of retreat, and that Law forbidding the sale of rabbits killed in this Commonwealth. These animals, because of their disposition and ability to increase rapidly, can well stand the open season of six weeks, as now provided by our Game Law, and will continue to increase until every community, including our towns, will have all if not more rabbits than they can take care of.

## OTHER GAME.

The number of raccoons and squirrels reported killed, with reed birds and woodcock and wild waterfowl, shows that these creatures classed as small game were fairly plentiful, especially the reed birds, that while slow in coming last fall, being at least a week or ten days behind their usual arrival, when they did come were more numerous than they have been for years, so that taking everything into consideration, the hunters of this State during the open season just past, have had a reasonably successful season, with sufficient stock left over to replenish the covers, if judgment and care in feeding and protecting the game is exercised.

## GAME SANCTUARIES.

We reiterate what we have said before regarding the benefits that are sure to come from the continued and perfected protection accorded game of all kinds within the limits of our sanctuaries. We believe that the Game Preserve or Sanctuary as we have it in Pennsylvania, territory of reasonable size, so that while game may find safety at all times within its boundaries, such game because of the



limited area will not be disposed to remain permanently there to live and to die, as is the case where the protected area is unreasonably large, as is the case with some of our National Reservations. Our Preserves are of such reasonable size as to permit the officer in charge to exterminate vermin thereon absolutely, and to feed the game that may be located there during the winter months. This appears to us to be of very considerable value, and makes the Game Preserve or Sanctuary as we have it in this State, the true solution of the game increase proposition, insofar as elk or deer or bear or turkeys and grouse are concerned.

### FOOD QUESTIONS.

The question of an adequate food supply for game of all kinds during the time when our State is covered with ice and snow, is the paramount question for consideration, and that without this food supply more game by far will be lost each year than is destroyed either by forest fires or is taken by hunters legally or illegally, and to that end we are doing all in our power to feed and strengthen our game, especially our wild game birds such as turkeys, quail, ruffed grouse and ring-neck pheasants.

### PLANTING OF FOOD-PRODUCING TREES AND VINES.

We recommend, therefore, in this connection that the sportsmen of this State, either individually or as organizations, get in touch with the representative or owner of forest lands in the neighborhood of where they may reside or hunt, also get in touch with State Foresters, where such lands are in question, and see to it that trees and vines and shrubs that will supply our beneficial wild life with food, such as apple trees, mountain ash, sassafras, dogwood, haws, both red and black, the chinquapin, with other nut-bearing trees and vines of various descriptions, be planted wherever they can be made to grow, for now that the chestnut blight is sweeping away the chestnut trees, the food supply of our wild life must be short indeed, unless something is done to take its place.

### FOREST FIRES.

We would be derelict in our duty in this connection were we not at this time to make reference to forest fires as they relate to game, and to call attention of those who hunt to this special condition, that in our opinion not only destroys vast quantities of game, the young and immature animals when they are unable to flee from the oncoming fire, but also destroys the young of our birds and the eggs in the nest. In addition, forest fires destroy the trees and shrubs and vines that furnish the food supply on the territory wherein they may be found, not only for the present, but for years to come. With these things in mind, we consider it the duty of the man who hunts to be especially careful that no forest fire originates because of his neglect or carelessness, and to do all in his power to extinguish forest fires after they may have been started by other people. Sportsmen should help the Department of Forestry in every way possible to prevent forest fires, and to protect State lands.

## RESTOCKING THE STATE WITH GAME.

Our effort to create game conditions as they existed fifty or more years ago appears to be fairly successful insofar as we have gone. The creation of our Game Sanctuaries, and the stocking of such places, seems to be the correct thing to do, and the increase of game on surrounding territory is most pronounced, and there is no exception in the matter of game released, so long as that game is adapted to wild uncultivated lands.

We call attention to the Report of our Secretary hereto attached relating to the species and numbers of animals and birds to be released in the State this year, with the Counties to which such game has been or will be sent.

You will notice by reference to the sheet in said Report relating to the distribution of pheasant eggs that while the number of ring-neck pheasants produced and raised to maturity from the eggs sent out by this office is not large, the cost of each bird raised to maturity is but about one-third of the cost of the mature bird we may be able to purchase.

## BOUNTY.

We agree that the manner of paying bounty claims as now in use in this State should be changed, as we suggested in a Bill introduced in the last Legislature, so that the claimant could get his money direct from the office of the Game Commission, instead of being compelled to wait weeks or even months while the claim was being certified to the Auditor General, and from the Auditor General to the State Treasurer, where after a while the check may be drawn.

## MEN KILLED AND WOUNDED.

By reference to the sheet relating to the accidents occurring during the hunting season just past, you will see that while less men were killed and less were wounded in this State than last year, still the number in both classes at first glance appears large, yet when you consider that there were at least four hundred thousand (400,000) hunters in the fields and woods in Pennsylvania during the season just past, that of this number at least fifty thousand (50,000) were armed with high-power rifles, the only wonder is that more were not killed or injured. While the number in this list may be startling to many, yet as compared with accidents through the use of automobiles, they are nothing.

## PROSECUTIONS.

You will see by reference to our financial statement that the money returned for penalties collected is quite considerable, going to show that our Game Protectors in most cases were active, energetic and performing their duty intelligently. We are satisfied the force of

Game Protectors in Pennsylvania will compare favorably with men of like employment in any State and we are trying our best to keep the standard of efficiency in this force to the maximum.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES B. PENROSE,  
President.

JNO. M. PHILLIPS,  
WM. B. McCALEB,  
J. S. SPEER,  
H. J. DONALDSON,  
GEO. D. GIDEON,  
Board of Game Commissioners.

Attest:

JOSEPH KALBFUS,  
Secretary.

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Harrisburg, Pa., December 1st, 1917.

To the Members of the Board of Game Commissioners of Pennsylvania:

Gentlemen: I herewith submit to you my Annual Report, and for the purpose of having same made a matter of public record that may be placed in the hands of sportsmen through printing, I include in this Report various statements made in my Report of last July to you.

### SONG AND INSECTIVOROUS BIRDS.

Word is coming from all directions regarding the undoubted increase of wild birds other than game-birds in this State, and I need not dwell at length upon this subject. This increase, it seems to me, is because the people everywhere appear to be getting in closer touch with the birds and are coming to understand better the value of the life-work of each family and of each species, and are doing more for our wild birds of all kinds than has ever been done before in this Commonwealth. Bird houses for both summer and winter uses are to be seen in many directions, with feeding platforms, and shelters for birds that do not go into the ordinary bird house.

### MEETING OF SPORTSMEN.

The contemplated meeting of sportsmen under the auspices of the Game Commission, to agree, if possible, on a remodeling of the Game Laws, and the placing as far as that could be done under a single title, was held. The changes thought necessary were to a great extent agreed upon; the Bill in accord with the thought of that public meeting was drafted and passed, after the usual strenuous battle over questions of local interest. The open season as fixed



by that Bill for all but wild waterfowl closed at sundown on the 15th of December, just passed, and taken as a whole the new Law is a great improvement on Laws heretofore in force. Those who hunted appear to be fairly well satisfied with its provisions, and have secured a reasonable quantity of game, excepting during the last few days of the deer season, when because of deep and unusual snows and inclement weather generally, many were prevented from hunting as they had intended to do. This was especially the case with the deer and the rabbit hunters.

Because of this inclement weather, I have no doubt a strenuous effort will be made when our next Legislature convenes, upon the part of some, at least, the men who want to hunt during pleasant weather, to have the deer season fixed for an earlier date, and I will admit that if the comfort of the sportsmen, or the value of the meat secured, are to be the controlling influences, then the open season should be fixed for a period not later than the first week in October, about which time the rutting season of the deer family begins in this Commonwealth and the flesh of the buck undoubtedly deteriorates and is not for several months to be compared with the flesh prior to that season, but if the question of increase of our deer is to be considered, the Law is right as it stands, because it gives the buck the opportunity to serve the purpose nature intends him to serve before he is exposed to the fire of the riflemen. If the question of forest fires is to be considered, the season is right, because in December we are much more liable to have rains or snows than earlier in the season. If the keeping of game killed is considered, the season is right, because of possible colder days and nights. If the question of the preservation of human life or safety is considered, the season is unquestionably right, as the leaves are off deciduous trees and men being able to see long distances are not nearly as likely to shoot their fellowmen as they are when their view is obstructed, so that taking all things into consideration, I believe the deer season and all other seasons as fixed by our last Law, are as nearly right as they can be made. One feature of the present deer season especially appeals to me, and that is the possibility of snow, that while it enables the hunter to trail his buck, it also causes the criminal who shoots does to hesitate lest he also be tracked and punished for his lawlessness. Reports in this regard are now coming to us, showing that while a large number of does were killed early in the season this year, far less were killed after the snows came. Reports received indicate that quite a large number of does were killed, some actually through mistake, but the majority by men who give no thought to their own hunting future or to their fellow-men, and seem to be actuated only by a desire to kill something, or to spite the Game Commission.

### COMPLAINTS OF HUNTERS.

This office is quite frequently in receipt of letters from hunters, who, having secured a License and failing to find all the game they think they should get, complain because the Game Commission is not supplying game in quantity they think should be supplied. Many of these men spend a dollar frequently for beer, or for cigars, or on a joy-ride, or at a show, or perhaps a good supper, and when the affair is ended feel they have received full value in return for every

cent expended, and forget the matter. When they spend a dollar for a Resident Hunters' License they expect to receive a return of value many times over the amount invested, and appear to think the sole purpose of the Resident Hunters' License Law was to provide something for them to kill. They forget that one of the principal things considered by those enacting this measure, the thing that perhaps had as much to do with influencing many members of the Legislature to support the Bill as any other thing, was the fact that through the license and the tag the hunter was compelled to wear, a mark of identification was placed upon the hunter that rendered his detection and conviction easy when he violated any provision of our Law, and gave to the farmer in this State an insurance that he could not have acquired in any other way for any amount of money.

They seem to forget, too, that this fund in the very beginning is split into halves, one part to be applied when necessary to the payment of bounties for the killing of destructive animals, that if permitted to increase at will would quickly exterminate all of our game, excepting, perhaps, bear. Our deer even would undoubtedly be destroyed by wild cats and foxes, if these animals were not held in check in some way. They forget that the remaining half is to be applied not solely to the purchase and release of game, but instead to the protection of game and wild birds, and this includes the running expense of the Game Commission, the creation and maintenance of Game Sanctuaries, wherein the big buck as well as the little buck finds safety during the open season, and wherein game of all kinds, because of the peace and rest there provided, increases beyond the ordinary and overflows into the surrounding country, to the benefit of the very fellow who complains. They forget that some of this money is used to feed game during that time when our State is under snow and ice, and that without such feeding many of our birds would surely die. They forget that the several Game Protectors in this Commonwealth are also helping the Department of Forestry to keep down forest fires, the most destructive agency game has to face, because they not only destroy the game but also the food supply, and eliminate game from that territory sometimes for years. They forget that Game Protectors are helping the Department of Fisheries to better conditions along the lines of their thought. They fail to remember that it is the duty of Game Protectors to enforce the Law relating to song and insectivorous birds, and to do all these things our officers must be efficient and active, and must also be on duty all the time, week-days and Sundays, day or night. Like the members of the State Police, they are subject to call at any time, and because of this I feel they should be paid the very highest salary possible under prevailing conditions. These fault-finders also seem to overlook the fact that the taking of a Resident Hunters' License is a voluntary act upon their part, and that there is nothing in the Law that compels any man to go hunting.

#### PURCHASE OF GAME.

In the matter of purchasing game we are doing the best we can. By reference to our financial statement you will note the amount expended for each specific purpose, with the number of animals and birds secured.



In my Report of July last I said:

We secured from the mountains of Virginia and Tennessee six hundred and twenty-four (624) turkeys which we released in various sections of the Commonwealth. Some of these birds were absolutely wild birds, some were only half wild. Some were released on territory within this Commonwealth wherein wild turkeys had been exterminated years ago; others were released where our native wild birds in limited numbers were found. All, after liberation, were carefully fed and guarded, and reports that come to us now from the increase of these birds is very gratifying. We introduced and released in this Commonwealth two thousand nine hundred and eighty-one (2,981) rabbits. We introduced and released one thousand three hundred and sixty-one (1,361) ring-neck pheasants. We also supplied residents of the Commonwealth with seven thousand three hundred and twenty-one (7,321) ring-neck pheasant eggs. We supplied food for our native wild birds as well as for the birds released to the value of \$2,140.81. We have purchased and placed in the State various fruit-bearing trees and shrubs, among the rest apple trees, that through the buds in the spring-time supply food for our grouse, that later on supply food through their fruit for the bear and the deer as well as the birds found in that section.

Since my last Report to you we have purchased and released in this State two hundred and seventy-six (276) deer; placing the majority of same on our Game Preserves, and in Counties closed to the killing of these animals for a period, and the reports coming to us regarding the increase of these animals would be very satisfactory, it would indeed be splendid, if the animals would only keep in their place and obey orders. As it is, verbal reports and letters of complaint regarding the destruction of property by deer and elk and bear are of almost daily occurrence. Elk and deer in various sections of the Commonwealth appear to be committing numerous depredations; the deer especially in Cumberland, Adams and Franklin Counties are raiding farms in all directions, destroying growing crops and trees. Bear, in certain sections, are raiding bee-hives, killing pigs and sheep, especially the latter. Particularly is this the case in the Counties of McKean and Potter. I visited Potter County a few days ago, and while there learned of one man, in the neighborhood of Cross Fork, who had lost thirty-seven (37) sheep in a few weeks through raids by bear. Investigation shows that these sheep were turned out by the owner in the woods, without a keeper, to spend their days and nights right in a section of the country filled with wild cats (either Canada or Bay Lynx), as well as bear, and I am led to wonder whether or not these wild creatures are wholly to blame in this matter, and whether or not the loss sustained can be justly attributed to bear alone. Our reports show that one hundred and forty-seven (147) wild cats were killed, during the past two years, in the neighborhood where these sheep were turned out; from which I reason that there are other animals than bear that might be to blame for existing conditions.

Our effort to secure an appropriation through which to pay for damages done by elk and deer and bear and other protected wild creatures resulted in failure, many of the Members of the Legislature refusing to support this proposition because, as they said, of the disposition of many farmers and fruit growers to present exaggerated

claims, and the almost utter impossibility upon the part of the Game Commission to refute the claim as made. The Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations told me personally that he could not support this Bill for the above reasons, and in addition said, "If this is done a precedent will have been established that will cost the State untold money. In my opinion it will not only take every cent that you can collect through the Resident Hunters' License from sportsmen, but will also take a considerable appropriation from funds collected for State purposes." "Why," he said, "One man before our Committee said his loss to trees because of deer would exceed twelve thousand dollars. At this rate I think the most profitable thing a farmer could do would be to plant trees where the deer could destroy them and have them paid for by the State."

As I have already said to you, of the six thousand (6,000) quail purchased in Mexico, we lost fully two-thirds before Spring came:

First, Because under the Regulations promulgated by the Biological Survey at Washington we were compelled to take these birds from Mexico when they were immature and not able to stand the hardships of travel necessary to bringing them into this State.

Second, Because they were removed from their native haunts at a time when they were living on insects and green food, while in captivity we were compelled to feed them on hard seeds and grain. They were compelled to eat or die, and die they did.

Third, They were, under the Regulations before mentioned, taken from a semi-tropical climate and brought quickly to a place where the temperature was below zero when they came and where it remained for weeks, each of these conditions in itself seriously handicapping the possibility of raising the birds, and together making such raising almost an impossibility.

After considerable argument and controversy regarding this matter the Biological Survey has decided to change its rule regarding the time when quail may be exported from Mexico, and in doing this has gone to the other extreme, deciding that quail may not be taken from Mexico before March first of any year. To my mind, this ruling is quite as harmful as the former and is not consistent with other thought emanating from this Department, who declare that no Spring shooting of any kind of birds, especially wild waterfowl, should be permitted after the first of February, because the birds are mating and preparing to go North to their breeding grounds. It seems to me that the quail in Mexico are just as likely to mate in February as are the migratory wildfowl, and I am sure they will mate in March, as they do here, if given the opportunity, and if the birds are to be moved from Mexico after the first of March, it seems to me the pairs will be so broken up and the birds in themselves so disorganized as to make the probability of increase for that year at least doubtful. Why these people in Washington attempt to limit the time of shipment so long as the birds are healthy I fail to see, as I also fail to see why these same people placed or permitted the placing of a provision in the Treaty with Canada prohibiting the shooting of reed birds, not only in this State, but also in the United States, when it is admitted by the Agents of the Biological Survey itself that the reed bird is extremely destructive and is increasing in numbers in the United States, but so it is, and so it will be just as long as the people of this Nation are willing to depart from the Democratic idea of



legislating for themselves through their immediate representatives, and are satisfied to turn the matter over to an individual or a coterie of individuals to make rules and regulations that have the effect of Law, as has been done in the matter of the taking of wild migratory birds.

### PURCHASE OF QUAIL.

Under prevailing conditions and regulations we have tried to do all we could in this line, and have contracted for the delivery of three thousand mature quail, to be delivered alive at various points in Pennsylvania after the first day of March next, the quail to be in equal numbers male and female, the price being \$18.00 per dozen, delivered.

### PURCHASE OF WILD TURKEYS AND RING-NECK PHEASANTS.

We have purchased and are now having delivered to our officers six hundred (600) wild turkeys, at a value of \$9.00 each, to be released as early next Spring as the weather will permit, preferably in sections of the Commonwealth now inhabited by turkeys, but we are also planning to release some of these birds in sections where turkeys were formerly found but from which they have been either driven or exterminated in recent years, the question of a food supply being the most serious consideration.

We have contracted for and are having delivered as rapidly as possible in this same way, thirty-two hundred and sixty-one (3,261) ring-neck pheasants, and are trying to place these birds in territory where neither ruffed grouse nor quail are found at this time. In this way we hope to supply pleasure, recreation and a limited food supply to the men who choose to hunt in that section, that can be provided in no other way. I am more than ever satisfied that the ring-neck pheasant is strictly a ground feeder; that it is not a bummer, and must be artificially fed when snow covers the ground, or they will just as surely starve as do chickens or tame pigeons under like conditions, and for these reasons can never become a part of the fauna of this Commonwealth. I am also more than ever satisfied that it is not as easy to raise ring-neck pheasants in captivity as it is to raise chickens, or as the dealers in these birds would have people believe it is.

Of the many people supplied with pheasant eggs last Spring by this office, but few were successful, because, as I believe, they did not attempt to observe our directions relative to either the place where the hens should be located or the treatment of the hen on the nest, or her treatment after she was off the nest with her brood. The hatching of these birds and their rearing by ordinary farmers has not been a success, as will be seen by the table upon that subject hereto attached.

I cannot help but believe that the snows now prevailing in this State will cause severe losses to not only our wild turkeys, but also to our quail and ring-neck pheasants, and unless they can be located and fed while these conditions prevail, they will in many sections of the State be absolutely exterminated. With that idea in mind we

have sent out numerous circulars recently, also letters relative to feeding the birds, these letters and circulars being sent to our Game Protectors, to Sportsmen's Organizations and to newspapers all over this State, in the hope that we may get many people interested in this matter.

### BOUNTIES.

As I said to you in my Report of July, our effort to change the Bounty Law in that particular relating to the manner of paying claims, so that checks could be paid direct from our office, so that instead of following the long tedious practice now in vogue of notifying claimants that the affidavit had been received, and then at the end of the month certifying the claims to the Auditor General, who later on sent a warrant to the State Treasurer for the money, and then that official still later on drawing and forwarding a check to the claimant, failed of passage because it was discovered, too late in the session for amendment, that the Bill contained two words, "This Bill," that limited the payment of bounty moneys to the provisions of that particular Bill, and that these two words prohibited the payment of claims for bounties under the provisions of any other Act, this provision seriously interfering with the settlement of accounts between Counties and the office of the Auditor General, then under consideration. This condition was discovered on the very last day of the session, and apparently too late for amendment. We regret deeply that this Bill was lost, as it would have permitted us to have sent to the claimant who forwarded his claim by mail, or to have handed the claimant who brought his pelt to the office, the amount due him, at once, which fact it seems to me would have been an encouragement to those disposed to kill vermin, and the necessity for such killing, or the benefit that comes through such killing, cannot help but be evident to the one who closely investigates this matter. I know of many places where the benefit that comes through the extermination of vermin has been thoroughly tested and tried, with always the same result to the birds and small game, a phenomenal increase.

Some years ago in Luzerne County, on the property of Eckley B. Cox, vermin was systematically destroyed through the use of every method known to men, including poison. Our Game Protector, Hugh Maloy, in charge of that district, told me that men who were employed by the Cox interests only were permitted to hunt on that land. Each man was given a card at the beginning of the season, and at the close of the season returned the card to the owner, stating on that card exactly what amount of game he had killed. Mr. Maloy assured me that the number of ruffed grouse killed on these lands in one season exceeded twelve thousand (12,000) birds, with many thousands of rabbits and squirrels, also hundreds of quail and woodcock. He told me it was hard to find the track of vermin of any kind in that section.

Reports from our public Game Sanctuaries in Pennsylvania, and also from private tracts under the same system, are to the same effect. Some years ago in June, I went with one of our Game Preserve Keepers, Amos Kline, now deceased, around the Game Preserve under his charge in Clearfield County. We saw in not exceeding three hours

tramp seven bunches of ruffed grouse and heard at least three others that we did not see. I said to Mr. Kline, "You have a lot of grouse;" to which he replied, "Yes, and Doctor if you will stay a few days I will satisfy you I have a grouse for every acre in this Preserve." To this I said, "Hold on, you have three thousand two hundred (3,200) acres in this place;" to that he replied, "And I have three thousand two hundred (3,200) grouse." I asked him how he accounted for so many birds, and he said, "Well, old Somebody," whose name I have forgotten, but who was a lumberman in that section, "is pretty tough on his horses; he killed two last winter, and instead of burying or burning them as was the custom, I had them hauled into the Preserve; I cut them up into small pieces, saturated the pieces with strychnine, and distributed the parts all over the Preserve with the result that after awhile when the snows came, there was not a track of a cat, or a fox, or a skunk, or a weasel, or a rat in this Preserve, and the only crow that could be found inside the wire was a dead one." I saw at one time on that afternoon in the road in a distance not exceeding a hundred yards, three mother ruffed grouse, each with a brood of little ones with from eight birds up. I have recently received from friends outside of our Preserves reports similar to the above, and on the places where vermin has been systematically destroyed are found to-day the only grouse that I know of in quantity anywhere in Pennsylvania. I call your attention to the statement hereto attached of vermin killed in this Commonwealth during the past year, and am sure when you consider that each one of these animals must destroy to live, you cannot help but wonder what quantity of birds and game animals they did destroy when they were alive. When you think of the vermin that is left, with the number of hunters, with the possibility of forest fires, with the scarcity of food because of the chestnut blight, Spring rains, through which the young birds were drowned, cold weather, that prevented the increase of insects upon which the young birds live, the vast number of crows, fully as destructive as anything we have in the Commonwealth, together with hawks and owls and other vermin not named in the bounty list, the only wonder to me is that we have game at all, and what the result would have been had there been no bounty. I am satisfied that if the majority of worthless cats that are now found in this Commonwealth could be destroyed, the world, especially the beneficial bird world, would be far better off. Some will tell you that by killing the predatory creatures in excess, you are opening the door to a most destructive increase of rodents, rats and mice, etc., that will destroy more than the animals killed would have destroyed. To this I reply that a persistent use of the methods through which the fox and the wild cat and the weasel are destroyed, will also destroy rats and mice, and this is evident on each of our Preserves, where small rodents as well as larger animals are destroyed. Vermin, big and little, as well as men with guns, must be controlled if we hope to have our game increase, and the wonderful kill of rabbits this fall in this State, and the increase of song and insectivorous birds, is evidence direct of the beneficial result of the Bounty Law.



## ELK.

The elk in this State are undoubtedly increasing, and because of their disposition to wander far and to remain in no special district are causing very considerable trouble in various sections wherein they are located, and in many of which they are entirely out of place, and from which they should be removed or killed. In Blair County the bunch of elk consisting of twenty-five or thirty animals, including calves, is located in a farming country fully twelve or more miles from the mountains wherein they were released. These animals should not be permitted to remain in that territory. I wrote you regarding this matter some weeks ago.

## GAME SANCTUARIES.

The Game Sanctuaries or Preserves as created and managed in Pennsylvania, a tract not too small and yet not so large that game can breed and live and die within its confines, it seems to me are the true solution of the wild game increase proposition, and the more of these Preserves we have the better off we will be. We now have twenty of these Preserves in working order, each in charge of a Keeper and each one, with the exception of three, equipped with horse, fire apparatus and telephone connections, each one of these Preserves to my mind doing far better work in the line of raising deer and bear and turkeys and ruffed grouse and squirrels than is done or can be done by any Game Farm in the United States, at a cost not exceeding a thousand dollars per year to each Preserve, and right here I desire to say that because of war, wages paid for ordinary labor, the Game Commission is to be congratulated on the character of the men it has been able to secure and retain, both on and off our Preserves, and I feel that insofar as that may be possible the salaries of our Preserve Keepers and of every other one connected with the work should be increased. This is a matter entirely for you.

## RESIDENT HUNTERS' LICENSES.

By reference to the report of Hunters' Licenses taken this year and our return of game killed, you will notice that while there were more Hunters' Licenses taken than ever before, there were far less grouse killed, and I am in receipt of many communications both verbal and written from men residing in various sections of the Commonwealth, recommending that a closed season for at least two years be placed immediately upon grouse. You have authority, under the provisions of the Act of April 9th, 1915, to close the several Counties of the Commonwealth, upon petition of not less than two hundred citizens of that County. From information received I am satisfied that the residents of every County will petition to have their territory closed to the killing of grouse, some because the grouse are exceedingly scarce and must be closed if the birds are to be saved from extermination; the others will petition because they know if their County is left open, while others around them are closed, hunters from other sections will pour into their County and destroy the birds. The closing in this way will also be a matter entirely for you.



## RING-NECK PHEASANTS.

From reports received we believe the ring-neck pheasants released last Spring in this Commonwealth produced fairly well, and that quite an increase over the number released can be found at this time; but the hatching and rearing to maturity of these birds is not the only question. As you are fully aware the ring-neck is strictly a ground feeder and a bird of the open-country instead of the wild lands, and just as the quail or chickens will starve unless artificially fed when the ground is under snow, so it seems to me it must be with the ring-neck pheasant. The weathering of winter sleets and storms is a serious proposition for them, and it remains to be demonstrated what they can do under conditions such as prevail at this time.

We have a number of Counties in this State wherein the wild lands exceed by far the cultivated lands, and wherein the snows of winter come early, covering both wild and farm lands and remain there until Spring is well advanced. We have tried to avoid the placing of ring-necks in such places.

We, therefore, because of unfavorable conditions prevailing in several Counties, released ring-necks in but fifty-three Counties of the Commonwealth; of this number seventeen Counties are closed to the killing of these birds for a period, under the provisions of the Act of April 9th, 1915, P. L. 73, so that in reality ring-necks were killed legally in but thirty-six Counties of the Commonwealth. Reports from these Counties show that one thousand four hundred and twelve (1,412) ring-necks were killed therein during the season just passed, with a fair number left alive. Reports from various directions show that approximately fifty (50) of these pheasants were killed illegally in the State, and taken together indicate that when the open season of 1919 comes, there will be good pheasant shooting in sections of this State where the grouse has long since been exterminated and where quail are scarce, if we are able through artificial feeding and care to bring them through our winters. We are doing our best in this direction, and our officers are directed to look after and feed these birds wherever they may be located. I am satisfied they cannot live without this care.

**STATEMENT COVERING GAME OF VARIOUS KINDS PURCHASED AND RELEASED, GAME SECURED AND HELD FOR LIBERATION SPRING OF 1918, AND GAME CONTRACTED FOR, BETWEEN DEC. 1, 1916, AND NOV. 30, 1917.**

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**GAME RELEASED:** (In addition to game held per 1916 Report)

Deer (Virginia White-tail), .....	276
Wild Turkeys, .....	49
Turkeys (half wild blood), .....	635
Ring-neck Pheasants, .....	24
Ring-neck Pheasant eggs (See detailed report below), .....	7,829
Rabbits (Cotton tail), .....	3,186
Fox Squirrels, .....	30
Quail, Bob-white, .....	1,800

**GAME PURCHASED AND DELIVERED:** (Held for liberation this coming Spring)

Wild Turkeys, .....	125
Turkeys (half wild blood), .....	40
Ring-neck Pheasants, .....	1,346

**GAME PURCHASED OR CONTRACTED FOR TO BE DELIVERED:** (Prior to July 1, 1918)

Deer, .....	100
Wild Turkeys, .....	245
Turkeys (half wild blood), .....	460
Ring-neck Pheasants, .....	1,915
Ring-neck Pheasant Eggs, .....	10,000
Rabbits, .....	8,000
Quail, Bob-white, .....	3,000
Quail, California Valley (for experimental purposes), .....	300
Fox Squirrels, .....	470

**GAME ORDERED FOR RELEASING SPRING OF 1919:**

Ring-neck Pheasants, .....	2,900
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# DATA COVERING THE HATCHING AND REARING OF RING-NECK PHEASANTS, FROM EGGS SECURED SPRING OF 1917.

Game Protector.	Address.	No. eggs.	No. hatched.	No. birds released.
Jas. H. Carpenter, -----	Chester, 127 E. 3rd St., -----	205	106	51
Warren Fretz, -----	Bedminster, -----	301	162	37
J. S. Reinert, -----	Lansdale, -----	200	166	92
Norman M. Wood, -----	Coatesville, -----	200	135	41
Samuel A. Keene, -----	Christiana, -----	202	112	58
Chas. F. Fenstermaker, -----	Reading, 239 N. 11th St., -----	200	106	36
Jas. D. Geary, -----	Slatington, -----	302	191	113
Peter E. Vale, -----	York, 365 N. Duke St., -----	200	106	39
Wm. L. Ibach, -----	Newmanstown, -----	150	81	24
Albert F. Hartwig, -----	Tamaqua, 212 Greenwood St., -----	200	123	35
James L. Boyle, -----	Mauch Chunk, -----	150	46	24
H. B. Hale, -----	Alderson, -----	200	119	18
William Anneman, -----	Scranton, 1243 S. Main St., -----	200	121	50
W. F. Simrell, -----	Hallstead, -----	151	92	68
Fred L. Van Orman, -----	LeRaysville, -----	295	43	7
Harry W. Miller, -----	Jamison City, R. F. D., -----	100	61	28
Chas. L. Braucher, -----	Hartleton, -----	201	109	31
Jas. B. Lightner, -----	Harrisburg, 619 Peffer St., -----	150	80	55
W. C. Bowman, -----	Lemoyne, -----	267	117	33
S. Maurice Shuler, -----	Liverpool, -----	148	86	50
J. J. Slaughterback, -----	Lewistown, 214 Logan St., -----	250	124	31
Jacob A. Miller, -----	Port Loudon, -----	200	136	33
Jno. W. Bumgardner, -----	Trough Creek, -----	100	60	38
Charley Batcheler, -----	Phillipsburg, -----	50	23	12
Henry Hilton, -----	Punxsutawney, -----	100	43	32
H. E. Hummelbaugh, -----	Clearfield, -----	49	8	0
K. B. Rodgers, -----	Johnstown, 560 Vickroy St., -----	200	15	6
Lem C. Ale, -----	Bellwood, -----	200	50	13
Eli Ritchey, -----	Everett, -----	100	37	3
Harvey E. Bittner, -----	Meyersdale, -----	200	68	48
Ralph Ross, -----	McClellandtown, Route 1, -----	250	137	122
H. R. Armbrust, Jr., -----	Greensburg, Route 6, -----	250	66	26
Iddo M. Lewis, -----	Marchand, -----	150	109	14
Jos. P. Kennedy, -----	Monongahela, -----	256	130	83
Jas. Sutton, Jr., -----	Pittsburgh, 3811 Dawson St., -----	310	73	48
D. M. Slagle, -----	New Bethlehem, Route 6, -----	150	51	3
Jos. M. Curtis, -----	Butler, 231 W. Pearl St., -----	151	70	12
H. N. Fenstermaker, -----	Clarion, -----	165	64	12
Herbert L. Beatty, -----	Franklin, 532 Elk St., -----	165	60	21
Henry J. Sines, -----	New Castle, 1511 E. Washington St., -----	200	96	69
Geo. M. Langdon, -----	Titusville, -----	161	68	45
Alex. MacDonald, -----	Erie, 324 E. Sixth St., -----	150	109	58
Totals, -----	-----	7,829	3,759	1,628

Cost of 7,829 Ring-neck pheasant eggs, -----	\$1,536 78
Cost of expressage on pheasant eggs, -----	39 49
	<hr/>
	\$1,576 27
Number of birds reported reared and released, -----	1,628
Approximate cost of each bird reared and released, -----	\$0 96

# BOUNTY CLAIMS ALLOWED ON NOXIOUS ANIMALS FROM DECEMBER 1, 1916, TO NOVEMBER 30, 1917, INCLUSIVE.

	Wildcats.	Gray foxes.	Red foxes.	Minks.	Weasels.	Dollars.
Adams County, -----		68	4	12	460	\$616
Allegheny County, -----	2	6	10	6	243	293
Armstrong County, -----	1	2	16	101	1,258	1,401
Beaver County, -----		1	16	41	215	290
Bedford County, -----	4	190	62	99	666	1,293
Berks County, -----		49	29	37	644	837
Blair County, -----	1	54	49	18	341	571
Bradford County, -----	5	111	251	397	2,160	3,311
Bucks County, -----	1	85	31	50	796	1,084
Butler County, -----			5	132	1,659	1,801
Cambria County, -----		31	48	116	510	784
Cameron County, -----	18	13	23	32	113	325
Carbon County, -----	1	38	14	25	140	275
Centre County, -----	14	170	139	54	639	1,395
Chester County, -----		8	58	69	602	803
Clarion County, -----		6	37	163	1,249	1,498
Clearfield County, -----	6	46	86	95	837	1,232
Clinton County, -----	23	89	48	16	166	594
Columbia County, -----	1	56	22	50	1,027	1,239
Crawford County, -----			9	257	2,168	2,443
Cumberland County, -----	1	76	30	1	421	640
Dauphin County, -----	1	61	12	6	390	548
Delaware County, -----			1	12	32	46
Elk County, -----	43	17	55	113	378	893
Erie County, -----	1		8	211	1,261	1,494
Fayette County, -----	4	92	34	103	318	697
Forest County, -----	10	1	50	131	233	526
Franklin County, -----	6	113	22	12	390	708
Fulton County, -----	13	81	17	46	186	506
Greene County, -----		1	26	4	174	232
Huntingdon County, -----	8	209	64	31	493	1,118
Indiana County, -----		20	8	202	1,252	1,510
Jefferson County, -----	3	8	56	184	959	1,289
Juniata County, -----	3	81	7	9	319	522
Lackawanna County, -----		106	63	123	406	867
Lancaster County, -----		4	16	18	546	604
Lawrence County, -----		1	6	41	664	719
Lebanon County, -----	1	16	9	5	234	295
Lehigh County, -----		38	10	17	329	442
Luzerne County, -----	8	92	28	109	1,254	1,651
Lycoming County, -----	14	108	100	80	847	1,427
McKean County, -----	22		158	207	1,524	2,179
Mercer County, -----			2	149	1,119	1,272
Mifflin County, -----	7	137	38	23	248	663
Monroe County, -----	8	86	82	101	551	1,036
Montgomery County, -----		15		9	420	459
Montour County, -----		2		3	281	288
Northampton County, -----	1	26	13	29	353	466
Northumberland County, -----		28	4	11	456	531
Perry County, -----		153	56	6	514	938
Philadelphia County, -----					16	16
Pike County, -----	35	116	59	104	225	889
Potter County, -----	45	6	168	113	1,389	2,120
Schuylkill County, -----		104	23	35	407	696
Snyder County, -----	3	16	28	17	436	559
Somerset County, -----	3	206	123	351	1,075	2,102
Sullivan County, -----	20	20	99	61	416	835
Susquehanna County, -----		199	118	278	942	1,854
Tioga County, -----	23	19	179	148	1,147	1,829
Union County, -----	6	40	12	24	239	403
Venango County, -----		2	60	108	1,114	1,346
Warren County, -----	15	3	125	226	789	1,361
Washington County, -----			44	27	331	446
Wayne County, -----	11	199	221	325	712	1,943
Westmoreland County, -----		68	42	131	1,015	1,366
Wyoming County, -----	1	119	55	127	796	1,277
York County, -----		22	48	5	776	921
Total, -----	393	3,734	3,336	5,846	44,270	\$66,614



# STATEMENT OF CASES PROSECUTED BY REGULAR AND SPECIAL DEPUTY GAME PROTECTORS.

December 1st, 1916, to November 30th, 1917.

## GAME LAW VIOLATIONS.

### CONVICTIONS:

Alien gun and dog laws, .....	112	
Resident and Non-Resident license laws, .....	66	
Other game laws, .....	253	
Total, .....		431

### ACQUITTALS:

Alien gun and dog laws, .....	2	
Resident and Non-Resident license laws, .....	2	
Other game laws, .....	3	
Total, .....		7

## FISH LAW VIOLATIONS.

Convictions, .....	21
Acquittals, .....	5
Total convictions during year, .....	452
Total acquittals during year, .....	12

## STATEMENT OF COLLECTIONS.

December 1st, 1916, to November 30th, 1917.

Collections of penalties and costs by Game Protectors, .....	\$9,809 39
Collections of penalties and costs through Justices, Aldermen, Special Deputy Game protectors, etc., .....	7,245 50
Proceeds of guns sold, .....	181 75
Proceeds of various licenses issued, .....	369 00
Total, .....	\$17,605 64

## STATUS OF 1915 APPROPRIATION TO GAME COMMISSION PER 1916 ANNUAL REPORT AND EXPENDITURES FROM 1917 APPROPRIATION DURING YEAR OF DEC. 1, 1916, TO NOV. 30, 1917.

Balance of 1915 appropriation for payment of salaries on Dec. 1, 1916, .....	\$29,970 28
Undrawn balance of above, June 1, 1917, .....	3,429 29
Amount drawn to June 1, 1917, .....	\$26,540 99
Salaries to date from 1917 appropriation, .....	31,212 47
Total salaries Dec. 1, 1916 to Nov. 30, 1917, .....	\$57,753 46
Balance of 1915 appropriation for General Expenses on December 1, 1916, .....	\$33,683 34
Undrawn balance of above, June 1, 1917, .....	11,068 34
Portion of above drawn to June 1, 1917, .....	\$22,615 00

Balance of 1915 appropriation for Preserve Fund on December 1, 1916, .....	\$33,463 20
Salaries of Preserve Keepers for 6 months drawn from this fund, appearing under salaries of Preserve Keepers below, .....	6,150 00
Portion of above drawn for Preserve Fund expenditures to June 1, 1917, .....	\$27,313 20
Warrants on 1917 appropriation drawn to date, .....	46,357 08
Total expenditures for the year, per distribution given below, ..	\$154,038 74

### DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR OF DEC. 1, 1916, TO NOV. 30, 1917.

Traveling expenses of Game Protectors, .....	\$46,656 76
Salaries of office force and Game Protectors, .....	57,753 46
Salaries of Game Preserve Keepers, .....	12,325 00
Salaries and expenses of Special Deputy Game Protectors employed during open season, .....	1,969 70
Purchases of supplies, telephones, etc., for twenty game preserves, .....	2,291 70
Game purchased and distributed, .....	23,254 10
Expressage on game, etc., .....	3,536 53
Grain purchased and fed to game, .....	2,087 07
Expenses in caring for game held for distribution, injured game, etc., .....	1,544 94
Bounties paid on dogs killed chasing deer, .....	370 00
Advertising closing of counties, .....	565 82
Postage, .....	1,030 39
Attorney fees, .....	464 36
Money in checking account Nov. 30, 1917, .....	188 91
Total expenditures, .....	\$154,038 74

### RECAPITULATION OF BALANCES FROM 1915 APPROPRIA- TIONS FROM FUNDS COLLECTED IN 1913 AND 1914, PER 1916 REPORT.

Balance in appropriation for payment of salaries and unused on June 1, 1917, per statement above, .....	\$3,429 29
Balance in appropriation for General Expenses and unused per state- ment above, .....	11,068 34
Unused balance of Deficiency Appropriation made in 1915, per 1916 Report, .....	10,000 30
Total balance remaining unused June 1, 1917, .....	\$24,497 93
Less amount appropriated in excess of license and penalty receipts collected prior to June 1, 1915, per 1916 Report, .....	23,657 36
Balance of 1913-1914 funds remaining unused June 1, 1917, per statements above, .....	\$840 57

**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDS FOR RESIDENT HUNTERS'  
LICENSE FUND AND BOUNTY FUND FROM 1915 AND 1916  
LICENSES, AND PENALTIES BELONGING THERETO,  
FROM JUNE 1, 1915, TO MAY 31, 1917.**

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Resident Hunters' Licenses issued in 1915, .....	262,355	
Resident Hunters' Licenses issued in 1916, .....	290,422	
		<hr/>
Total licenses at \$1.00 each, .....		\$552,777 00
Less County Treasurers' fees of 10%, .....		55,277 70
		<hr/>
Net revenue from 1915 and 1916 licenses, .....		\$497,499 30
<b>GAME PROTECTION AND PROPAGATING FUND:</b>		
One-half of above net revenue from 1915-1916 licenses .....	\$248,749 65	
Penalties and costs deposited with this fund as pro- vided for by law, .....	17,618 46	
Balance from 1913-1914 moneys remaining in this fund June 1, 1917, per statement above, .....	840 57	
		<hr/>
Total June 1, 1917, .....		\$267,208 68

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**SPECIFIC APPROPRIATION TO GAME COMMISSION BY 1917  
LEGISLATURE.**

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Salaries of office force for two years, .....	\$18,900 00	
Salaries of Field Supt., Traveling Game Protector, and not to exceed sixty Game Protectors for two years, .....	126,000 00	
Traveling expenses of officers, services of Special Deputy Game Protectors, maintenance and crea- tion of game preserves, purchase and propagation of game, office expenses, attorney fees, etc., two years, .....	220,000 00	
		<hr/>
Total, .....		\$364,900 00
Revenue to June 1, 1917, placed in Game Protection Fund, per statement above, .....	\$267,208 68	
Amount appropriated in excess of revenue in Game Protection Fund on June 1, 1917, and which will be taken from balance in Bounty Fund and future revenue, .....	97,691 32	
		<hr/>
		\$364,900 00

NOTE: For information relative to amounts drawn from the 1917 appropriation to date, see statement above.

**BOUNTY FUND:**

One-half of net revenue above from 1915-1916 licenses, .....	\$248,749 65	
Penalties and costs deposited with this fund as pro- vided for by law from June 1, 1915, to May 31, 1917, .....	8,874 77	
		<hr/>
Total Bounty Fund June 1, 1917, .....		\$257,624 42

## DISBURSEMENTS:

Disbursements per 1916 Annual Report, .....	\$76,506 50
Bounties from December 1, 1916, to November 30, 1917, per statement attached to this report, ....	66,614 00
Salaries, employees of Bounty Division, .....	4,485 65
Postage, .....	2,114 68
One-third compilation of Game, Fish and Forestry Laws, .....	100 00
Amount in excess of \$240,320.47 appropriated by the 1915 Legislature to reimburse counties for bounties paid under the Act of July 25, 1913, which claims had been rejected by the Auditor General because of irregularities and failure to comply with the provisions of law, said claims having been made valid by Act No. 211, dated June 19, 1917, paid out of this fund up to November 30, 1917, .....	34,404 50

Total disbursements, ..... \$184,225 33

Balance in Bounty Fund on December 1, 1917, from moneys placed in this fund prior to June 1, 1917, ..... \$73,399 09

NOTE: For information relative to Resident Hunters' and Non-Resident Hunters' Licenses issued during the season see addendum at end of report. Your attention is called to the fact that the revenue from the Non-Resident Hunters' Licenses is by Act of the 1917 Legislature placed in the Game Protection and Propagation Fund. Heretofore the revenue from these licenses was divided between the county wherein issued and the general funds of the Commonwealth.

## FINANCIAL REPORT.

1915 Appropriation:

## GENERAL FUND.

Dec. 1, 1916 to Feb. 28, 1917. . . . .

Dr.	To balance from last quarter, .....	\$4,143 77	
	To warrants on appropriation, .....	12,000 00	
	To penalties and costs collected, .....	4,573 30	
	To proceeds of guns sold, .....	39 75	
	To proceeds of taxidermist licenses, .....	38 00	
	To proceeds of ferret licenses, .....	45 00	
	To proceeds of propagating licenses, .....	17 00	
	To proceeds of ordinary licenses, .....	4 00	
			\$20,860 82
Cr.	By deposits in State Treasury, .....	\$4,717 05	
	By expenses during quarter, .....	12,661 13	
			\$17,378 18
	Balance, .....		\$3,482 64

March 1, to May 31, 1917.

Dr.	To balance from last quarter, .....	\$3,482 64	
	To warrants on appropriation, .....	6,500 00	
	To penalties and costs collected, .....	2,744 68	
	To proceeds of guns sold, .....	26 00	
	To proceeds of taxidermist licenses, .....	20 00	
	To proceeds of ferret licenses, .....	6 00	
	To proceeds of propagating licenses, .....	9 00	
	To proceeds of ordinary licenses, .....	2 00	
	To proceeds of special licenses, .....	2 00	
			\$12,792 32



Cr.	By deposits in State Treasury, .....	\$2,809 68	
	By expenses during quarter, .....	9,037 74	
			\$11,847 42
	Balance, .....		\$944 90

June 1, to July 1, 1917.

Dr.	To balance from former statement, .....	\$944 90	
	To warrant on appropriation, .....	3,000 00	
	To refund of 'phone bills, .....	5 50	
	To refund of expenses advanced, .....	10 00	
			\$3,960 40
Cr.	By expenses during month, .....	\$3,287 73	
	By balance deposited in State Treasury, .....	672 58	
	By error, .....	09	
			\$3,960 40

1915 Appropriation: PRESERVE FUND.

Dec. 1, 1916, to Feb. 28, 1917.

Dr.	To balance from last quarter, .....	\$1,174 58	
	To warrants on appropriation, .....	3,650 00	
			\$4,824 58
Cr.	By expenses during quarter, .....	\$4,466 51	
			\$4,466 51
	Balance, .....		\$358 07

March 1, to May 31, 1917.

Dr.	To balance from last quarter, .....	\$358 07	
	To warrant on appropriation, .....	3,500 00	
	To refund from express company, .....	10 00	
			\$3,868 07
Cr.	By expenses during quarter, .....	\$3,556 77	
			\$3,556 77
	Balance, .....		\$311 30

June 1, to July 1 1917.

Dr.	To balance from last quarter, .....	\$311 30	
	To warrant on appropriation, .....	360 07	
			\$671 37
Cr.	By expenses during month, .....	\$671 37	
			\$671 37

1917 Appropriation: June 1, to August 31, 1917.

Dr.	To warrants on appropriation, .....	\$15,000 00	
	To penalties and costs collected, .....	2,462 66	
	To proceeds of guns sold, .....	42 00	
	To proceeds of taxidermist licenses, .....	7 00	
	To proceeds of propagating licenses, .....	2 00	
	To proceeds of ordinary licenses, .....	1 00	
	To proceeds of ferret licenses, .....	4 00	
			\$17,518 66

Cr.			
	By deposits in State Treasury, .....	\$2,518 66	
	By expenses during quarter, .....	10,524 99	
		<hr/>	\$13,043 65
	Balance, .....		<hr/> \$4,475 01

Sept. 1, to Nov. 30, 1917.

Dr.			
	To balance from last quarter, .....	\$4,475 01	
	To warrants on appropriation, .....	16,000 00	
	To penalties and costs collected, .....	7,387 21	
	To proceeds of guns sold, .....	74 00	
	To proceeds of taxidermist licenses, .....	47 00	
	To proceeds of propagating licenses, .....	9 00	
	To proceeds of ferret licenses, .....	13 00	
	To proceeds of non-resident licenses, .....	30 00	
		<hr/>	\$28,035 22
Cr.			
	By deposits with State Treasurer, .....	\$7,560 21	
	By expenses for quarter, .....	16,613 50	
		<hr/>	\$24,173 71
	Balance, .....		<hr/> \$3,861 51

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH KALBFUS,

Secretary, Board of Game Commissioners.

## ADDENDUM.

Harrisburg, Pa., Jan. 9th, 1918.

As a matter of information we give below data covering game killed and hunting accidents during the hunting season of 1917, also data available to date covering the number of Resident and Non-Resident Hunters' Licenses issued for 1917, all of this data having been perfected since the drawing of my report to the Game Commission. Attention is called to the fact that the final returns from County Treasurers covering licenses issued have not been perfected in all respects, and the complete final returns may somewhat alter the figures given, but it is believed that the data below given on game killed and hunting accidents is authentic and as complete as it is possible to secure same at this time.

## GAME KILLED SEASON OF 1917.

Number.	Kind.	Estimated Weight of Each.	Total Weight.
1,725	Deer, -----	130 lbs.	224,250 lbs.
368	Bear, -----	200 lbs.	73,600 lbs.
3,500,000	Rabbits, -----	2 lbs.	7,000,000 lbs.
187,000	Squirrels, -----	1 lb.	187,000 lbs.
13,955	Raccoons, -----	8 lbs.	111,640 lbs.
2,950	Wild Turkeys, -----	12½ lbs.	36,875 lbs.
112,287	Ruffed Grouse, -----	1½ lbs.	168,430 lbs.
1,412	Ring-neck Pheasants, -----	3 lbs.	4,236 lbs.
26,823	Quail, -----	6 oz.	10,059 lbs.
29,320	Woodcock, -----	6 oz.	10,995 lbs.
36,107	Wild Waterfowl, -----	2 lbs.	72,214 lbs.
	Total weight, -----		7,899,299 lbs.
	Reduced to tons, equals, -----		3,950 tons

The above does not include 17,845 shore birds of various kinds killed.

## HUNTING ACCIDENTS SEASON OF 1917.

Fatal accidents, .....	26
Non-fatal accidents, .....	75
Total number of men wounded and killed, .....	101

## HUNTING LICENSES ISSUED IN 1917.

(Data as of Jan. 9, 1918.)

Resident Hunters' Licenses issued, .....	305,005
Non-Resident Hunters' Licenses issued, .....	560

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH KALBFUS,

Secretary, Game Commission.



